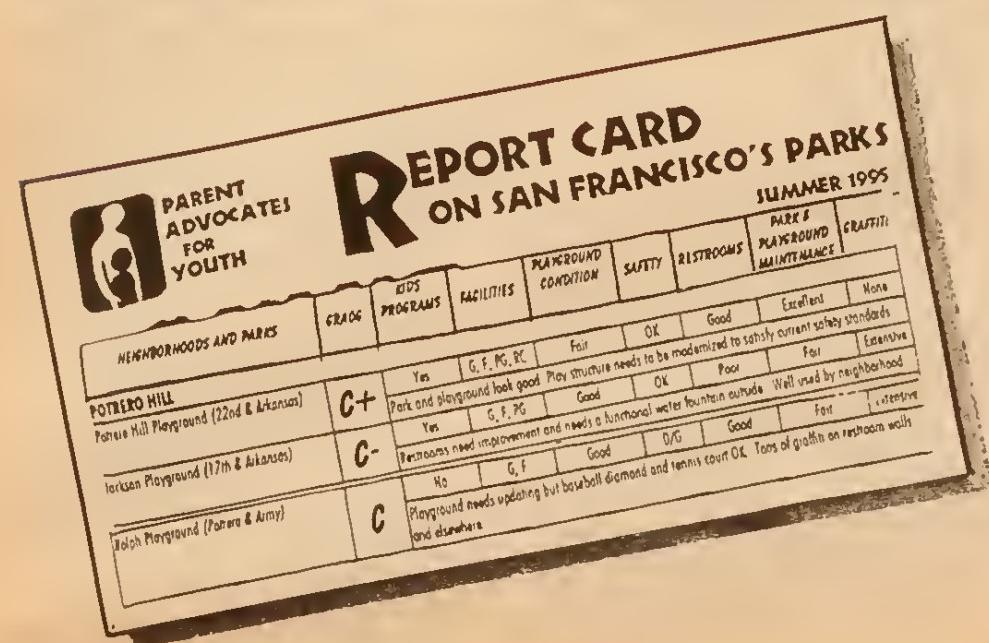




August, 1995

Volume XXVI, No. 7

FREE



SFGH Would be Hard Hit If "Contract" Takes Effect

By Jeff Wood

Melange Matthews, senior legislative planner for the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health, was on hand at the July 20 San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) neighborhood meeting to discuss cuts in health and welfare spending contained in the Republican "Contract with America."

She cited San Francisco as a city for which these spending cuts would have serious repercussions, providing statistics from the most recent census which show 30 percent of the city's population to be living in poverty (a yearly income of less than \$12,600 for a family of four) or near poverty (a yearly income of less than \$25,200, or 200 percent of the poverty level).

These people, Matthews says, are most

likely to be affected by a current proposal to allot funds to individual states in "block grants" for dispersal, rather than the current method of direct federal funding for social service and health programs. Under this proposal, funding for Medicaid would drop from its current rate of increase (10-11 percent annually) to 8 percent next year, and even further to 4 percent by the year 2002, the year by which, under present circumstances, some predict the Social Security trust is expected to go bankrupt.

In the year 2002 this cut would result in a \$101 million loss to SFGH, which represents one-third of the hospital's medical revenue and 16 percent of its total projected revenues in that year. The total Medicaid reduction from 1996 to 2002 would be \$330 million, the

(Continued on Page 4)

A Quarter Century of Hill's Changes, Continuity As Potrero View Celebrates its Silver Anniversary

By Judy Baston

As the oldest monthly neighborhood newspaper in San Francisco, **The Potrero View** celebrated its silver anniversary this month.

In the past 25 years, we've watched with interest — and considerable concern — as our fellow community papers go through growing pains, undergo internal or financial crises, suffer through irregular schedules, or debate the propriety of alliances with each other or with special interest groups in the city. And we've certainly taken note as neighborhood newspapers have been forced by various sets of circumstances to cease publication.

Why, then, does **The Potrero View** persist — and even prosper — against these stiff odds faced by neighborhood newspapers? As part of trying to make our papers a strong reflection and advocate for our community, we think about this question a lot. And we've come to the conclusion there are a number of reasons, some of them having to do with **The View** and many of them having to do with the Potrero Hill community about which we're fortunate enough to report.

In a number of respects **The View** has certainly come a long way since its conception in a house on Kansas Street and its birth in a Connecticut Street base-

ment in August, 1970 with a staff of uneven experience but much dedication.

We've grown from a flimsy four page sheet to 16 — and often 20 — pages monthly. And while the first few years' editions were graced with hand-set headlines that too often looked like the cutout letters from the proverbial ransom note, for a number of years now we have at least dipped our toes into the waters of contemporary technology, courtesy of a friendly computer owner who sets our headlines.

Yet as we've grown and changed, the vision that attended the birth of the **View** has persisted. Producing the **Po-**

treo View is still completely a volunteer effort, and **The View** is a totally independent newspaper, not allied with any other institution, either on or off Potrero Hill.

For our staff, many of whom are long-time dwellers and active community participants, producing **The View** is seen as a constant learning experience about our neighborhood, since **The View**, of necessity, must reflect both the consistencies and the changes in Potrero Hill, and in the city at large. And as

(Continued on Page 2)

Hill Locales Get Graded 'C' In "Report Card" on Parks

By Bernard Gershater

Parks and playgrounds in the Potrero Hill area received average — but passing — grades last month in a report card on the city's neighborhood recreation areas issued by Parent Advocates for Youth.

The group, an offshoot of Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, rated about one-third of the city's parks with grades A through F, looking at issues such as children's programs, what facilities are offered, safety, including drug and gang activity, park and playground maintenance, and graffiti.

Not surprisingly, it was found that the parks in the city's more affluent areas rated highest, and, the survey also reflected higher grades when parents and others in a community are involved in park issues and activities.

Grades for centers on Potrero Hill fell in the middle range: Potrero Hill Rec Center at Madera and Arkansas Streets got a C+; Jackson Park at 17th and Arkansas Streets received a C-, and Rolph Playground at Potrero Avenue and Army Street got a C. (McKinley Square at 20th and Kansas Streets was not included in the study.)

The report card noted that Jackson's "restrooms need improvement and needs a functional water fountain outside," and stressed that the park is "well used by neighborhood." The playground condition was rated "good," park and playground maintenance "fair" and graffiti "extensive."

Begun in 1991 with a main goal of improving the playground at Jackson Park, the Potrero Hill Parents Assn. now numbers about 100 families, and meets often with the Park and Rec Dept.'s Open Space Committee. As a result of their efforts, \$150,000 has been allocated for improvements, but an additional \$150,000 is

needed and a proposal is being written to be presented to the Committee in September.

The Association's Jude Deckenbach believes that among the most serious problems at Jackson is a focus on adult activities, resulting in a neglect of the needs of younger children. There is no recreation director on the premises in the morning, she charges, and when homeless people sleep in the playground, parents sometimes have to call police to get them out. She agrees with the report's findings that bathrooms are not cleaned often enough and graffiti are not promptly removed.

In evaluating the Potrero Hill Recreation Center, the report card noted that the "park and playground look good," but added that the "play structure needs to be modernized to satisfy current safety standards." The report rated park and playground maintenance "excellent," restrooms "good," playground conditions "fair" and indicated the absence of graffiti.

Jon Greenberg, Director of the Rec Center for many years, disagreed with aspects of the report, stressing, "most of the community served here feels we are an A or a B." He expressed his doubts that users of the facility had been asked for their input. The Rec Center has no parents group such as the one at Jackson Playground.

Greenberg emphasized that community respect for the facility and its staff, many of whom have lived in the neighborhood, is responsible for the low level of vandalism or graffiti at the Rec Center.

Parent Advocates, the group issuing the report card, indicated it hopes the condition of neighborhood parks and playgrounds — and the availability of city funds for their improvement — will become an issue in the current mayoral campaign.

GETTING INVOLVED

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month (August 3) with members of the San Francisco Police Department, to discuss issues of public concern. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Community College — downstairs — at 1800 Dakdale at Phelps, off Bayshore. Focusing on issues of housing, the August meeting will feature guest speaker Shirley Thornton, newly appointed Director of S.F. Housing Authority, to be joined by Ted Dientsfrey, Mayor's Office of Housing; Commissioner Barbara Meskunas; Commander Richard D. Holder, SFPD; Gary Lindquist, National Tenant Network, and Rev. Willie Carter, President, Resident's Management Council. Hill residents are always welcome.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board will not meet as such this month. Instead they will host a Youth Health Fiesta on August 26 from 4-5 p.m. in the Health Center parking lot at 1050 Wisconsin St.

Potrero Hill Parents Assn. will also take a break in August. The next regular meeting will be Sept. 12.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club will meet on its regular 2nd Tuesday (Aug. 8). But instead of the usual location, the Club invites the community to join them in a joint Candidates Forum with six other city Democratic Clubs at the James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe St. at Clipper. Moderated by TV news personality Belva Davis, the event will feature at least four mayoral candidates: Jordan, Brown, Achtenberg, Alioto. It is scheduled for 7 p.m.

PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors), meeting in executive session this month (Aug. 16), invites anyone who wishes to raise an issue or speak to the executive committee to call Elizabeth, 826-6359. The next membership meeting will be on Sept. 20.

Friends of McKinley Square will co-host, with Rec/Park, a community-wide meeting in August to report the progress of the work already starting in the park. Time and place still to be determined as **The View** goes to press. Call Joan Anthony for details. 821-7279.

Starr King Park Board meets the second Wednesday of each month (Aug. 9) in the Potrero Hill Library meeting room at 1616-20th St., upstairs; at 7 p.m. This month's meeting will include discussion of the master design plan. All members of the community are welcome. Neighbors and friends of the park are also invited to join in the weekly work parties held the first Saturday of each month. (Aug. 5; 10 a.m.).

Potrero Hill Boosters and Merchants meet the last Tuesday of the month (Aug. 29) at 7:30 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Library, upstairs, 1616-20th St.

S.F. General Hospital Community Meeting will next take place on Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m., in Carr Auditorium, 22nd St., at San Bruno. No meeting in August.



Thanks, Neighbors

Editor:

On Memorial Day, my 12-year-old border collie took off for a round of bar-b-ques. After three days, we found her at the SPCA.

I want to thank all of the neighbors who called us with various "sightings" of Brandy in response to the flyers. It is great to live in a neighborhood with such community spirit.

I especially appreciate the time someone took to take her in to the SPCA. She has great sentimental value for me. Give a call and let me know who you are if you'd like! (I'm in the phone book.)

Marybeth Hellner
Kansas Street.

Mission Rock

Editor:

Thank you for your mention of the Mission Rock Resort in your July issue. It does appear that Mrs. Wahl is not getting a fair deal in her quest to save the Mission Rock Resort and even though Mrs. Wahl had the only qualified bid at the last RFP from the Port, she was still denied for a technicality as she was deemed not to be a tenant in good standing with the Port's parameters and the Port also felt that she was not a qualified restaurant operator even though she had been serving food here for over 20 years.

I also feel that the Port is quite correct

in their evaluation of the facility, as there has been some neglect due to the fact that without a lease renewal, there was not a way for Mrs. Wahl to find an investor to pull her out of a tough financial situation. She has refinanced her house twice since the passing of her husband and the earthquake to keep Mission Rock going. I do agree with Prestor Cook and Diane Artz of the Port that Mission Rock has far greater potential to generate revenue for the Port, which is the underlying factor of this whole standoff.

Even though it is a huge gamble, I have brought in a team of experienced restaurant and bar people to join forces with the very dedicated and existing staff of the Mission Rock to turn this facility around. We have invested a great deal of capital to upgrade the food, repair some of the structure, clean, paint, stock the refrigerators, and work with everyone who is a part of the history of the Mission Rock to see if we can meet the Port's demands half way as a sign of good faith in an effort that they may reconsider their firm position on the eviction of Mrs. Wahl. Should we even see a nod of approval, then we will go forward to rebuild the docks and increase the revenue to the Port from that profit center as well.

We are committed to saving the flavor and style of the Mission Rock. It is a place where all San Franciscans can feel comfortable, relax, enjoy reasonably priced food and drink, bring your parents, your significant other, your children or just yourself.

David Kiely
Mission Rock Resort

Potrero View Celebrates its Silver Anniversary

(Continued from Page 1)

tencies and the changes in Potrero Hill, and in the city at large. And as issues affecting the community develop myriad complexities and contradictions, we are constantly seeking ways of reflecting many thorny new realities without abandoning the principles that have informed our vision over the last quarter-century.

Back in August, 1970, when **The View** was born, there was no Showplace Square at the foot of the Hill, no Parkview Heights at the other end (although the very first edition of **The View** carried an article foreshadowing what would be a 15-year controversy about this development), and not even any Victoria Mews or 18th and Arkansas development tucked away in the middle.

There was barely a glimmer in 1970 of the huge commercial and residential development boom that would affect

Potrero Hill in the ensuing 25 years — or some of the issues that would raise, such as the future of light industry on the Hill or the pros and cons of residential units located next to possibly hazardous industrial sites.

Over the last quarter century, the Hill has all but lost its reputation as a neighborhood in which working people could easily find housing at reasonable rates. A request in the January, 1972 Classified Ads section of the paper, "I want to live on the Hill. One bedroom to \$100," or even the ad in May, 1978, "2 BR Victorian Flat, \$385 per month," would now properly belong in the "read it and laugh — so you don't weep" section.

But along with the many changes, some issues have reflected an eerie sense of continuity: just to name a few, concerns about a stadium built nearby; persisting problems in the Hill's public housing units; escalating budget cuts faced by

city services in the neighborhood (except for the Hill Library, after last year's passage of Prop. E); continuing concern about crime; the struggles to improve Potrero Hill's schools.

Over the past 25 years, we on **The View** have reported hundreds of stories that reflect the particularly active role residents of Potrero Hill play in their community and citywide. And because we are a persistent and determined community, we have been able to write 30- to some of these stories: The successful campaign against PG&E expansion; the survival of the Good Life Grocery after facing eviction (although high commercial rents continue to be a serious problem); the defeat of then-Supervisor Dianne Feinstein's suggestion to create a "porno zone" near the Hill. There was a battle through what seemed like miles and miles of red tape to open the Caleb Clark Health Clinic in the area, and although the clinic was finally established, continuing battles against funding cuts have unfortunately been a target for yearly coverage.

Often a story in **The View** has helped produce decisive action on a particular problem. One case in point was the

disclosure that toxic substances existed under the excavation of the former paint factory, later a Synanon site, at 23rd and Kansas Streets. Another was the revelation that a local doctor, now long gone from the Hill, was handing out prescriptions as if they were candy.

At a time when fragmentation and balkanization is having an increasing effect in our city, our nation, and our world, we are still and constantly finding that one of Potrero Hill's strengths is its diversity. Young and old, black, white, Samoan, Russian, Latino, working people, professionals, artists, pensioners — with both contradictions and commonalities, they all make up the population that keeps Potrero Hill one of the most dynamic and involved communities in San Francisco.

This in turn enables us to report on — and advocate — the needs of a neighborhood that is determined to advocate for itself. And this, too, is why **The View** has prospered over the last quarter century. And for this, congratulations are indeed in order, for without the community of Potrero Hill, there would certainly be no 25th birthday for **The Potrero View**.



* Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

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LIBRARY NEWS

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Wednesday: 1 pm - 9 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: Noon - 6 pm

**TIME IS ON OUR SIDE**

"Time Is On Our Side" is the theme of the Potrero Library Open House on Saturday, August 19. The Open House celebrates the new hours that began in April resulting from passage of Prop E. Join us for entertainment and refreshments all day long.

Beginning at 2 p.m., Trio Del Sol will play music for stringed instruments. At 4 p.m., Snapdragon Puppet Theatre will entertain children with "The Three Little Pigs." Our resident facepainter, Assistant Library Technician and artist, Nell Jehu, will paint clocks on the faces of willing children — reflecting our new open hours. You asked for it, and you got it — so come on in and celebrate with us.

SUMMER READING —SPEEDING!

We are delighted that at presstime 112 children have signed up for summer reading. We note that last year at this time, there were 120. Since we had our largest participation ever in a program event in July, when more than 100 young readers and their caretakers thrived to the daring of the Red Panda Acrobats, we are certain that more summer readers are coming our way and we will beat last year's record with another chartbuster.

Here's the drill: for the first book read, a child receives a reading log; two books read, a child receives a sticker; four books read, a child receives a magnifying glass; six books read, a child receives a pencil, and eight books read, a child selects two tickets to a San Francisco Giants game OR two tickets to the Morrison Planetarium OR two tickets to the Bay Area Discovery Museum OR a paperback book.

Though the theme of the program is "solve mysteries — read," children are not required to read mystery-genre books in order to participate. The program ends on August 19. Books signed in after that date do not count toward the program. Children who complete eight books or more receive a certificate on the day of the Open House and have a chance to compete for an autographed baseball.

DEBBY JEFFERY MEMORIAL AND AND BOOK LAUNCHING

The Office of Children's Services and the Potrero Library will host a celebration of the life of children's librarian Debby Jeffery on Friday, August 25, at 7 p.m. "Literate Beginnings: Programs for Babies and Toddlers," a book Debby completed shortly before her death in late April, will be introduced at the event.

**THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY**

If you are searching for a story that ran in the Potrero View a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through December 1991. We will have more recent issues bound in the not-too-distant future, but in the meantime, check with the librarian who may have them on file.

TEN YEARS AGO**In The View****OPTIMISM WITH NEW SUPERINTENDENT:**

When Robert Alioto ended his ten-year stint as San Francisco's Superintendent of Schools on July 24, 1985, there were sighs of relief on Potrero Hill, noted **The View**. Interim Superintendent Carlos Cornejo, 30-year veteran in the district, pledged as a top priority to improve teachers' morale, which took a battering in 1979 when 25 percent of the teachers were laid off, then many rehired as temporary employees. A nationwide search for a new permanent superintendent was initiated.

VIEW LAUDED BY SHERIFF:

Calling it "one of the most professional and dedicated community newspapers in the State of California," Sheriff Michael Hennessey awarded one of three Sheriff Department Certificates of Commendation to **The Potrero View**. Accepting the award for the staff was editor Ruth Passen. Similarly honored were the San Francisco Independent and the Portalwood Press.

HILL RESIDENTS IN SANCTUARY CARAVAN:

Three Potrero Hill residents were members of a caravan from the southwest aiding refugees from civil wars in Guatemala and El Salvador. The three, all parishioners of the Hill's St. Teresa's Church were Mario Castro, Scott O'Keefe and Larry Donohoe, the latter a **Potrero View** staff member. St. Teresas, one of more than 30 Bay Area churches supporting the caravan, voted to become a Public Sanctuary in 1984 when 81 percent of the parishioners agreed to participation in the sanctuary movement.

VIEW CELEBRATES 15th BIRTHDAY:

Ten years ago it was 15 years old and even then the oldest monthly neighborhood newspaper in San Francisco. The "Ten Years Ago" column exulted: "Yes, this year the View is a ripe fifteen years old. Fifteen, count them. Fifteen (15). Amazing." And now it's 25. Amazing.

THIS AND THAT:

In the aforementioned "10 Years Ago" column: "A classified ad from August '75: 'For Rent: View Cottage on De Haro Street. 2 bdrm, panel living rm. \$225/mo.'" . . . Rep. Sala Burton spoke of her opposition to the Secretary of the Navy's attempt to homeport the battleship USS Missouri in San Francisco . . . Dr. Video announced the opening of its store on 18th Street . . . Bertolt Brecht's "Threepenny Opera" was performed at the Eureka Theater on 16th Street . . . Great-great-grandfather Ivan (John) Ednoff, a respected elder of the Russian community and the Santa Claus for 10 years at the Neighborhood House annual children's Christmas party, died in June 1985 . . . Summer horticultural workshops sponsored by the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) were slated to begin at the Potrero RecCenter, Arkansas and Madera Streets . . . Statistics from the Police Department's Potrero Station indicated that no purses were snatched on the Hill in July "but street robberies were up by one over the month of June" . . . S. F. City College hoopsters, playing a series of games in China, included Ed (Topper) Allen who grew up on the Hill and was a regular at the Rec Center . . . Two block parties enlivened the Hill scene in June and July — one in Park View Heights and the other on Vermont Street.

— Vas Arnautoff

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Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

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Omega Boys Club	Tuesdays, 7:30 pm

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Paint Fire Neighbors Voice Health & Safety Concerns

By Judy Baston

Neighbors of the paint warehouse at 18th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue that burned May 19 in a massive, four-alarm blaze have been meeting since mid-June to express concerns about the effect of the fire on their health -- and to press for a speedy cleanup of the area.

Subjects of the greatest concern, San Francisco Health Dept. Industrial Hygienist Richard Lee told *The Potrero View*, were buildings at 199, 209 and 223 Missouri St., just behind the site of the fire.

Paint company owner Jim Fregosi and the insurance carriers involved in the situation "decided to hire a community liaison to deal with neighbors' complaints," Lee said. The liaison is Steve Duvis of Health Science Associates in the East Bay.

Meetings have taken place between Lee, Duvis and groups of neighbors who expressed their major concerns. Chief issues for the neighbors, Lee pointed out, included getting the area cleared and cleaned up as speedily as possible; ensuring that the debris from the former paint warehouse is covered; and enabling neighbors suffering from various physical symptoms to have a medical examination paid for by the companies involved.

SFGH Would be Hard Hit If "Contract" Takes Effect

(Continued from Page 1)

equivalent of no Medicaid benefits for 1.25 years of the seven year period.

These cuts would make even worse the state's overburdened Medicaid system. California's reimbursement rate on Medicaid is 50th out of 50 states; it currently spends \$601 per Medicaid child, about 40 percent less than the national average, and \$4,900 for aged patients, about 45 percent less than the national average. For a state with about 15.5 percent of the nation's Aid to Families with Dependent Children and SSI case load, California would lose approximately 26.3 percent of the \$70 million proposed in cuts over the next seven years, which translates into about 1.2 million California children who will be denied aid.

According to Matthews, both legal and illegal immigrants living with HIV would be at risk "in a heightened way."

In answer to a question from the aud-

The Health Dept. had received complaints from some 20 people who worked or lived near the fire. Symptoms included sore throats, headaches, and a metallic taste in the mouth. A number of problems, which had not come to light immediately after the blaze, evidently persisted for weeks after the fire. Some neighbors said they were forced to move.

Lee indicated that Davis had been able to arrange medical exams at UCSF/Mt. Zion Hospital for affected neighbors. Davis was out of town and unavailable for comment at *View* press time.

Lee also told *The View* that all studies of the fire site up to late July have failed to yield the presence of any toxic substances. But with weeks of removal work on the fire's debris, "there should definitely be no more contamination," he stressed. "The question now is about the disposal of the wastes," Lee added.

Following the fire, it was disclosed that Fregosi had failed to get a permit registering the warehouse as a toxic materials storage site when he moved there a year ago from another location — for which he did have a permit.

Although the stiffest penalty the company could suffer could be a \$2,000 fine for each day the warehouse was unregistered, the matter still appears to be under discussion between the Health Dept. and the City Attorney's office.



A member of the Starr King Park cleanup crew works on the De Haro Street side of the open space.

Continuing Cleanup Effort Underway As Part of Plans for Starr King Park

Members of the San Francisco Conservation Corps worked June 30 to clear dry weeds and undergrowth from the perimeter of Starr King Park, the area of open space roughly bordered by Carolina, 23rd and De Haro Streets and Parkview Heights.

Goal of these efforts was to provide fire protection for adjacent properties and to prepare for future beautification efforts being developed in a master plan that will encourage California Native plantings. Recent work in July also included the removal of debris that had been dumped onto the property by individuals.

Work parties to help improve Starr King Park are scheduled for the first Saturday of every month — Aug. 5; Sept. 2; Oct. 7. Projects will include

weeding, clearing, posting of "No Dumping" signs and eventually new plantings in this serpentine soil.

Starr King Park has an elected Board of Directors which at its Aug. 9 meeting at the Potrero Library meeting room will discuss the Master Plan and removal of the non-dedicated semi-circular roadway that was left from when the site was used for military housing. All members of the community are welcome.

— Rick Binkoff

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When: TUESDAY AUGUST 15TH 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm.
Where: Potrero Hill Neighborhood House 953 De Haro St./Game Rm.
Who: You must be a smoker to attend. Class size is limited.
How: No registration. Just show up.

Sponsored by Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, SF Dept. of Public Health and the American Lung Association of San Francisco and San Mateo Counties
Call Scott Thomas at 543-4410 if you have any questions.

POTRERO HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

MULTI-SERVICE

AGES 13 - 17

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BEHIND RECENT HILL ASSAULT**How Family Troubles Led To Criminal Incident**

By Michael Mattis

The 16-year-old juvenile arrested with the highly publicized June 27 Potrero Hill gang rape, robbery and assault has a long history of family trouble. The View has learned.

The crime adds two to the at least 320 reported assaults committed by juveniles this year, according to SFPD Planning Dept. statistics. The incident made city-wide headlines after Mayor Frank Jordan, pushing his controversial curfew proposal before the Board of Supervisors, vowed to apprehend and punish those responsible. The proposed curfew would make it illegal for minors under 17 to be out between 11 p.m.-5 a.m. weeknights, and midnight-5 a.m. weekends.

According to police, Justin Gross, 23, and Dana Robertson, 22, were accosted by six to 10 pistol-waving youths as they waited for a bus at the corner of 26th and Wisconsin Streets. Demanding money, the youths took a wallet and a backpack from the victims. Gross escaped, but Robertson was reportedly dragged into the Potrero Terrace complex and raped. She was later found several blocks away, wandering in a daze, police said.

The arrested suspect - referred to only as 'T' because he is a juvenile - is a former Potrero Terrace public housing resident now living in the Mission district with his mother. He has been held at the Youth Guidance Center since his arrest.

According to his mother, T, who was already on probation for possession of marijuana, has been charged with driving without a license, evading the police, and possession of an illegal firearm. During a search of the car, T was driving at the time of his arrest, police found the backpack taken from one of the victims.

Police sources have indicated that further charges, including rape and assault, may be filed in the near future. Hearings on the charges have repeatedly been postponed.

T's mother, 41, is a San Francisco native and a graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School. She has lived mostly on Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) since the birth of her eldest son, who is currently serving a 22 month sentence in San Quentin for robbery.

There were originally four children; her second son was shot in the back and killed, execution style, as he sat in a car outside the family's Potrero Terrace apartment in the spring of last year. The crime has not been solved. She also has a 13-year-old daughter.

T's mother says it was after the murder of her second son that her two surviving sons' troubles began. "I believe we had a breakdown," she said. "I believe all my children are still suffering. There is a time when I think T wanted to be dead so that he could be with his brother. I think he started using alcohol as a crutch."

She said that she has tried to seek emotional therapy for her family, but that, "young kids have the idea that a psychiatrist is for a crazy person - but T doesn't think of himself as crazy."

Barbara Chin, a social worker who has worked closely with T's mother through the AFDC's employment retaining program, GAIN, confirms that the mother has sought counseling for herself and her children. "This situation - this environment - it's so sad," said Chin, who notes that T's mother had just graduated from the first phase of the GAIN program this spring. "It's sad because she has worked so hard in the program to learn and to better herself."

"Kids are running wild-out-of-control," said the Omega Boys Club's Jack Jacqua, who thinks young people need attention and are being failed by the system. Jacqua sees T's family's situation as characteristic of what he calls a "complete breakdown" in society.

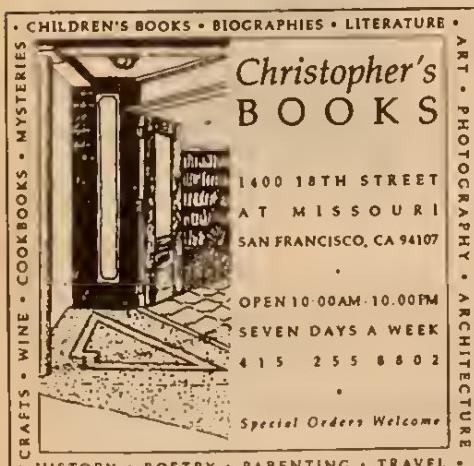
"No one's dealing with these kids until they turn 18," he said. "When they're 18 they deal with them by building prisons. None of the responsible agencies are dealing with juveniles in any real way, whether it's prevention, therapeutic, positive healing or recreation programs."

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YANKEE, WORLD GYM EVENTS HELP NABE

Two neighborhood events sponsored by local merchants raised money for the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House in July. The first event, a barbecue at Connecticut Yankee on July 4, brought together many "guest" bartenders and cooks who, along with the Yank's regular staff, volunteered their time and expertise. The second fund-raiser took place July 15 at the World Gym, where the Nabe's staff and youth spent several hours washing cars. The youngest car washer was four year old Jade Green seen above. Many of the gym's regular customers and staff, as well as the owners' children, also participated, and brought their own cars to be washed. Both events were filled with satisfaction and high spirits by those who helped support the neighborhood community center on De Haro Street.

Carol Nolen photo

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Hill Parents Propose Creating "Waldorf" School in Area

By Michael Mattis

A new charter school, based on the "Waldorf" model, is being proposed by a group of Potrero Hill Parents and Education activists.

The Mahatma Gandhi School, as it would be called, would begin at kindergarten with grades being added year by year up to eighth grade, according to San Francisco parent and educator Susan Angst, a member of the Coalition for the Mahatma Gandhi School. "We can build a model school that the world will want to model its schools on," said Angst.

Waldorf schools emphasize what enthusiasts call a "heart/head/hands" approach to education that plays on "points of development" in the child's life. According to Phaizon Wood, Director of Multicultural affairs at the University of San Francisco, Waldorf teachers recognize three basic stages in the child's development. The first, called the "imitative," spans ages one through seven and emphasizes play. The second, seven-14, is called the "imaginative"

stage and stresses learning through storytelling and creating pictures. The time from ages 14-21 is considered the "cognitive" or "abstract" stage in which the student deals with the higher intellectual concepts.

In addition, the child is exposed to liberal doses of what Angst calls "hands-on math and physics" that emphasize the thinking process over rote learning. Computers and other high-technology are kept away from the child until his or her teens, in favor of pen, paint and palette, according to Wood.

"By having academics shoved down their throats from day one, children miss whole stages of development that are crucial to their well being," said Angst. "The beauty of art and music isn't just fluff, it creates a sense of values." Eighth graders who graduate from Waldorf schools and go back into the regular public school system suffer no setbacks as a result, she added.

The San Francisco Unified School District already has two charter schools, the International Studies Academy (ISA) on Vermont Street, a high school which has been charter for just one year, and

a preschool. While funded by the state and receiving the same Average Daily Attendance (ADA), or dollars-per-head money as regular public schools, charter schools have a greater flexibility in areas of personnel, budget, and curriculum, according to Tom Ruiz, a social studies teacher at ISA.

The Mahatma Gandhi School, according to Ruiz, would probably require a "revenue based" system of budgeting, with the school receiving funds similar to a block grant that would be allocated with the oversight of the school's governing board. The board, rather than the District, would decide how much to allocate to administration, personnel, upkeep, and training.

"It's important to keep in mind that something like 80 percent of any school's costs are in personnel," said Kent Mitchell of the United Educators of San Francisco, the teachers' union. "They will still have the same amount of money to spend per student — something like \$4,000 a head per year. They still have to take care of the nuts-and-bolts operation — their grounds, payroll, salaries, etc..."

"Where we get into trouble with the charter concept," Mitchell continued, speaking for the union, "is that the law is vague about the requirements for teachers and the accountability for the product."

Though in a sense outside the school district, charter schools are subject to the approval of the San Francisco Board of Education, which thus far has not shown itself too eager to approve Mahatma Gandhi. The coalition submitted its application for the school April 6, but motions for considering the application have been repeatedly tabled by the Board, according to coalition member Jon Underwood.

The location of the school is also up in the air, with the coalition looking at a number of different spaces, such as the California College of Arts and Crafts, which the coalition says may be looking for a new location, or a site at the Presidio. But the coalition would prefer a Potrero Hill location. As a charter school, Mahatma Gandhi would be a "magnet school" accepting applicants on a first-come first-served basis. But, said Wood, "the priority would be on neighborhood kids."

"So far," said Potrero Hill father Juan-Thomas Rehbok, "most Waldorf-based schools have been private, so there's been a lack of diversity. With this combined approach we'll get the best of the multi-ethnic diversity in the area."

A series of meetings is being held to discuss strategies for lobbying the board. For further information contact the Coalition for the Mahatma Gandhi School, 931-2593.

SURPRISE!



Fr. Peter Sammon (center) of Potrero Hill's St. Teresa's Church was taken by complete surprise July 1 when 150 of his parishioners threw a party for him to celebrate his 25 years — to the day — as pastor of St. Teresa's. Fr. Sammon, who evidently had forgotten he was eligible to mark his silver anniversary, was the subject of a "This is Your Life" program. The St. Teresa's Hall was festooned in red, white and blue for the day.

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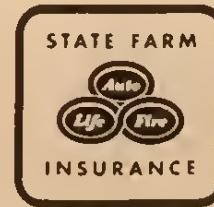
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The S.F. Public Library at Civic Center features "The Homefront — San Francisco in the 1940s," an exhibition of the S.F. History Assn. memorabilia, on the second floor rotunda, through Sept. 26; at noon on Aug. 10 a video program, "Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter," in the Lurie Room. This video is about women who went into factories and other work, their recruitment and stories as told by five women who recall their contributions to the war effort. "Family Gathering," about the effects of internment of Japanese-Americans, is shown Aug. 24 at noon, in the Lurie Room. And at noon on Aug. 31, "Entertaining the Troops: American Entertainers in WWII," includes performances by a host of familiar stars from the past, including Bing Crosby, Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra, James Cagney — and Bugs Bunny. In the Lurie Room. For more info call 557-4277.



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Quickview

A Mayoral Forum sponsored by several neighborhood Democratic Clubs takes place Aug. 8, 7-9 p.m., at the James Lick Middle School Auditorium, 1220 Noe at Clipper Sts. Participating Demo clubs include Potrero Hill, Noe Valley, Bernal Heights, Northside, North by Northwest, Robert F. Kennedy, and the Golden Gate Democratic League. Television political commentator Belva Davis will moderate the event. For more info from the P.H. Demo Club contact Bob Moskowitz, 285-5877, or Bernie Rush, 550-8104.

Last chances to see the S.F. Mime Troupe's newest offering takes place Aug. 12 in Precita Park (Folsom & Precita near Army Sts.); and Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-3 at Sunken Meadow in Golden Gate Park (behind the De Young Museum); and Monday, Sept. 4 at Dolores Park, 19th & Dolores Sts. Musical entertainment begins at 1:30 with showtime at 2 p.m. All performances are free, but call 285-1720 for more info.

The S.F. History Assn. is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII with an "It's Over . . . Let's Dance" party, Aug. 15 in the Green Room of the War Memorial Bldg. The organization plans to recreate the post-war mood of the city by providing music by a big band, and Red Cross Doughtnnt Ladies in their original uniforms; an old fashioned soda fountain complete with soda jerks dispensing Coca Cola in the familiar old bottles. Celebants are encouraged to come in costume as their favorite person from the 1940s, and prizes will be awarded in different categories. There is an admission fee and no-host refreshments. To reserve tickets and get more info call 750-9986.

A free lecture on Chinese medicine and HIV/AIDS is offered by the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut St., Thurs., Aug. 10, from 7-8:30 p.m. For more info call 282-9603.

The Growing Stage, a children's theater in progress at The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., offers matinees Aug. 13 & 27, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The Aug. 13 show features the Owen the Magician and Walker Brents' world myths, wonder tales and comical fool stories; and the Aug. 27 show features "The Life of Helen Keller," an interactive one-woman show by Naomi Stein. Call 641-0235 for more info.

The Neighborhood House has again been funded by the City to continue a Graffiti Paint-Out Program, which has been underway for the past two years. Congratulations should be offered to the Nabe staff and community volunteers for all of the work they have put into the program spending many Saturdays helping in the clean-up and paint-out efforts with residents of the Potrero Terrace and Annex.

You can fight violence against women by volunteering for rape crisis counselor positions at S.F. Women Against Rape. Training takes place Aug. 7 Sept. 7. For more info call Jamie at 861-2024.

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House's youth programs are in need of sports equipment and games, as well as materials for the arts and crafts programs. Programs for youth at the Nabe include substance abuse prevention (ZAP), summer and after school employment training, gym activities, and tutoring. For info, or to offer help, please call 826-8080.

If you are a good listener, caring, supportive, and understanding, and want a real challenge, you might want to volunteer at the S.F. Suicide Prevention Center. Training classes will begin soon, so call 984-1900 for an application or more information.

More than 100 dancers, musicians, actors, performance and visual artists are expected to participate in Theater Artaud's 7th Annual Performance Marathon on Aug. 19, noon to midnight. General admission is available on the day of the event only, on a sliding scale from \$5 to \$50, and is good for unlimited access to the theater on a space-available basis. Artaud is located at 450 Florida at 17th St. For more info call 621-7797.

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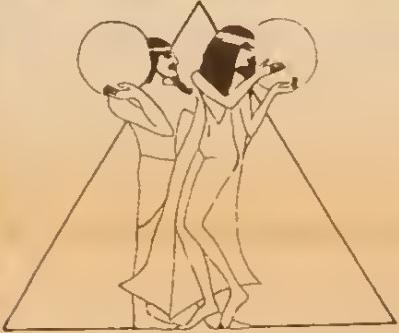
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David Allen photo





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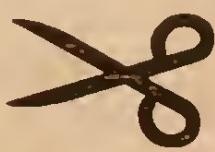
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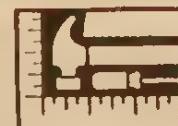


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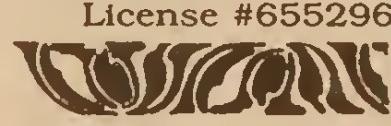
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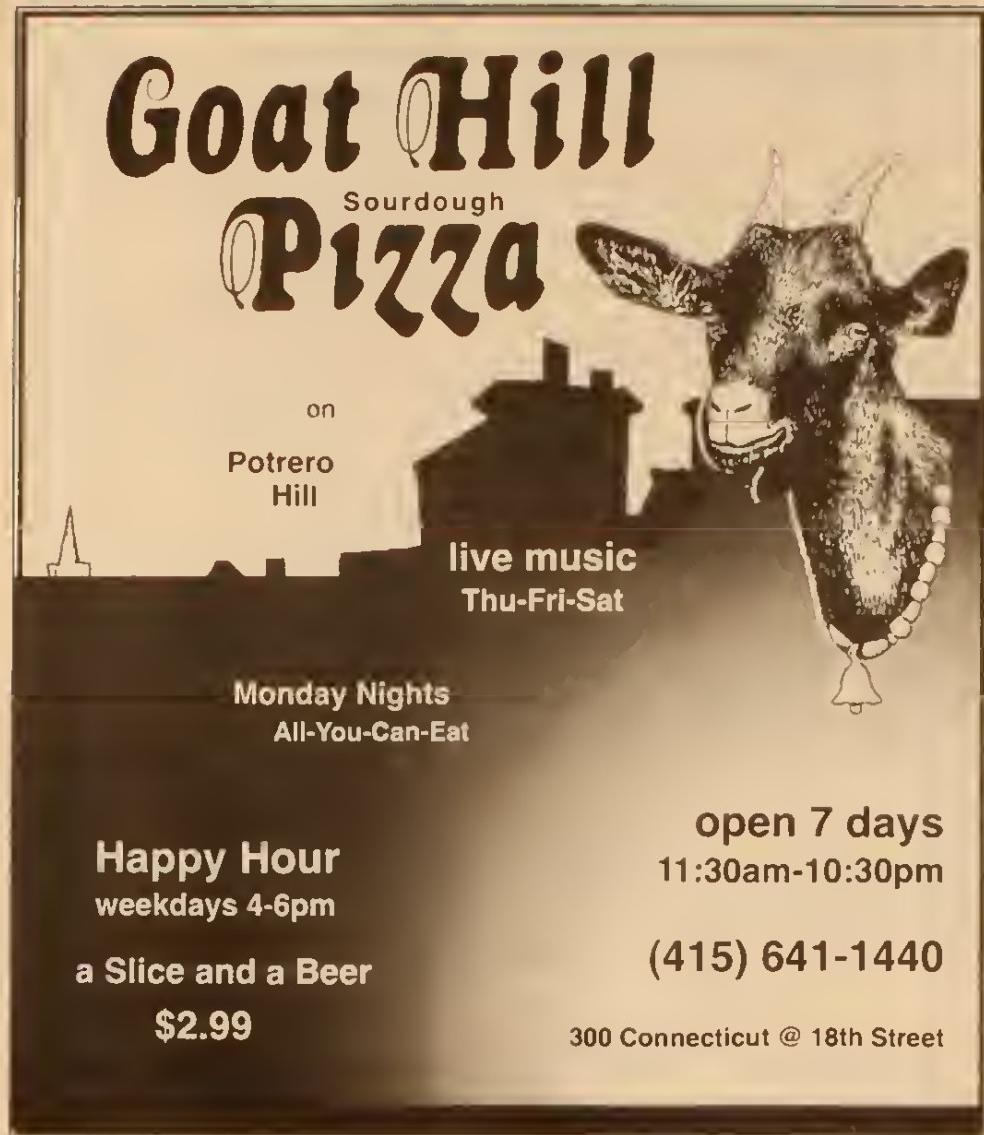
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LUNCH 11:30-5:00 HAPPY HOUR 4:30-6:30 DINNER 5:00-10:00
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Prime Rib Special: Full Dinner \$10.95
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District 9 (Mission, Bernal Heights, and Potrero Hill) for 1994
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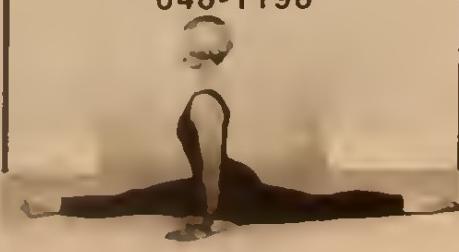
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1216 Wisconsin

3 BR/ 2 BA Parkview Heights townhome with private garden, deck and one car parking. Sold in less than two weeks for \$183,000.



Other select, available properties:

1012 DeHaro: Sunny, open 2+ bedroom home with great west views and 3 rental units. Owner's unit has open interior with modern kitchen and bath. All three rental units are 1 bedrooms and currently bring in \$2,130/month, making this property very affordable to own! Asking \$439,000.

1118 DeHaro: Charming 1929 period home with flexible floor plan. Use as a 2000+sq. ft. 4 BR/3 BA home or rent the legal 1 BR unit on the lower level! 2 car garage plus storage/workroom. West views and level yard. Asking \$469,000.

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618 Connecticut Great Potential! List Price: \$305,000
Charming 1+ bedroom home with 2 remodeled baths. Large rear addition w/beautiful walkout garden, attic potential.

634-36 Connecticut 2 Flats! List Price: \$399,000
Two cute Edwardian 1 bedroom+ flats! Top unit enjoys view of the Bay! Both offer fireplace, hardwood floors, and modern kitchens & baths. Two car side-by-side garage and great yard, too!

703 San Bruno List Price: \$319,000
Renovated loft-style 2 bedroom Victorian with 1 bedroom income unit. Enjoys panoramic City and Bay views. Owner's unit has 10 foot ceilings on the main floor and tiled bath. Huge yard & garden

506 Connecticut List Price: \$339,000
Bright 2 bedroom + den Marina style home. Central North Slope location, hardwood floors, fireplace & cove ceilings. Huge garage!

Also listed:
1012 De Haro 4 Units!
1118 De Haro Owner's Plus! List Price: \$439,000
List Price: \$469,000

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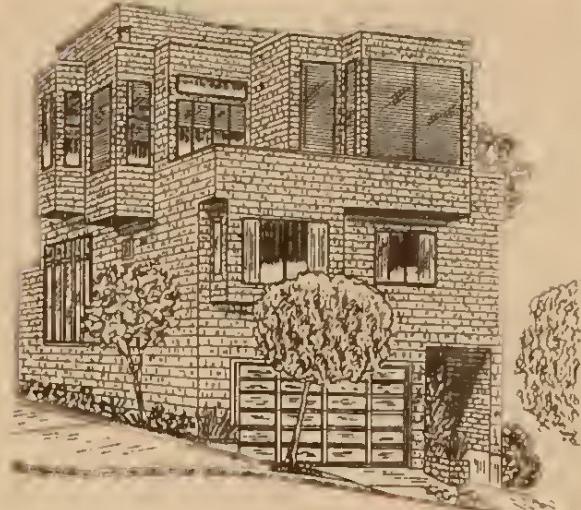
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POTRERO HILL SUBLET: Available Oct 1 - Jan 1. Furnished 1 bdrm flat, Wisconsin @ 19th Sts. City views. Great for couple. \$1050. Call 648-8753.

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SIX LIVE/WORK UNITS FOR SALE to artists. Help design & build a collaborative community at 1695-18th St. to include new performance gallery, atrium gallery, proposed multi-media center & amphitheater. Open every Sat & Sun, 12-3, or call 648-7800.

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